

Civilian employees should take advantage of Emergency Data System

The Emergency Data System Web Application provides appropriated fund Air Force civilian employees an automated means of documenting their next-of-kin information for use in any emergency.

It shows the name and addresses of your spouse, children, parents and other people you would like notified if you become a casualty or for any other emergency.

Employees are urged to use the Emergency Data System and to keep it current. Only the employee has update or change capability to the data on the next-of-kin emergency form, stored in Air Force Personnel Center's Personnel Automated Records Information System library.

Your access to the Emergency Data System will be through the center's Secure Web Application and you can use the same user-identification and password that you use to access all of Personnel Center's Secure Web Applications.

To complete your emergency data form visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc and go to the EMDS pull down menu at the top of the page. Once you have updated your emergency data form, print a copy and give it to your supervisor to be placed in your Air Force Form 971.

Remember to update your emergency data any time there is a change and provide your supervisor with a current copy.

Please refer any questions regarding the Emergency Data System to Larry Davis, 846-9843, Civilian Personnel Flight, Labor and Employee Management Relations Section.

Village helps enlisted widows

Although Air Force Enlisted Village officials take great pride in having had the opportunity to provide a home to more than 1,500 enlisted widows since 1975, the biggest challenge is still ahead.

That's according to Ken Hair, village marketing, who noted that their efforts are aimed at making contact with those enlisted widows who need help, but who aren't aware of the services they provide.

Enlisted widows who are 55 years or older and receive retirement benefits may be eligible for the Air Force Enlisted Village. Low income Air Force enlisted widows may be eligible for rent subsidy and, in some cases, there is no waiting period.

In addition to its two independent living facilities, Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village, an Assisted Living Facility will open at the Bob Hope Village in early 2005. The Air Force Enlisted Village is in the Florida panhandle, one mile south of Eglin AFB, in the Fort Walton Beach area.

Write to Air Force Enlisted Village, 92 Sunset Lane, Shalimar, FL 32579-1000; call 800-258-1413. E-mail: afef@afenlistedfoundation.org go to the Web site: www.afenlistedwidows.org.

Hennessy team to evaluate dining facility

BY MIKE ANDERSON

377th Services Squadron Marketing Office

The Thunderbird Inn Dining Facility has won Air Force Materiel Command's Gold Plate award for 2004. Now it's time to compete for the John L. Hennessy Jr. Trophy.

If you've eaten at the dining facility lately you may have noticed how excited everyone is about the upcoming event. They are competing with seven other single-facility category bases—bases having only one dining facility serving at least three meals a day, five days a week.

Everyone is invited to the icebreaker in the Mountain View Club, Feb. 15, 6:30-9 p.m. Cost is \$5 for E-7 and above, or their civilian equivalent—free for those below this rank.

The Hennessy Trophy evaluation team arrives Feb. 14 and leaves Feb. 18, hopefully with the thought that they have found the best dining facility in the Air Force. The team

will evaluate the Thunderbird Inn on service and dining operations, kitchen operations, training and much more. The Hennessy Awards Program is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association, Society for Food Service Management and the International Food Service Executives Association. The award is presented to the Air Force winning bases' representatives during the annual National Restaurant Association meeting and exposition.

The awards were named for John L. Hennessy Jr., a respected restaurant owner and industry leader who was assigned to the Hoover Commission to find ways to improve food service in the military.

Winning the prestigious John L. Hennessy Jr. award would not only prove to be a big accomplishment for the Thunderbird Inn and staff, but it would display the professionalism and dedication of TEAM KIRTLAND.

As this very important evaluation quickly approaches the Thunderbird Inn Staff anxiously awaits their opportunity to rise above the competition. The Thunderbird Inn Staff is proud to represent AFMC and honored to represent TEAM KIRTLAND.



Photo by DeAnna McMurry

Revelers vie for king and queen at the 2003 Kirtland Officers' Spouses' Club's masquerade ball and silent auction at the Mountain View Club. The fund-raising event returns March 6.

Fun not incognito at club's masquerade ball

BY JENNIFER E. WEST

Nucleus Staff Writer

Helping TEAM KIRTLAND students pursue their educational goals is fun. But decking out in a costume and wearing a wild mask that hides your identify is even more fun.

"The Kirtland Officers' Spouses' Club has two goals in presenting the masquerade ball and silent auction," club member Christie Krisinger explained. "We need to raise monies for our scholarship programs and charity efforts. However, equally important (is that) we want everyone attending to have a wonderful and memorable evening."

The masquerade ball and silent auction to raise funds for scholarships for TEAM KIRTLANDers is March 6 at the Mountain View Club. Social hour at 6 p.m. is followed by dinner of chicken or fillet of salmon. Dancing to DJ music finishes the program that includes crowning of a king and queen of the costume contest.

The silent auction is expected to include jewelry, gift certificates, art items, sports and home accessories.

"Dance, dance, dance the night away is the way I remember the KOSC masked ball," said Delia Tamez of Chugach Management Services, JV. "...I was impressed with how many men went all out to wear 'full dress,' not just a mask, costumes. Some couples wore extraordinary one-of-a-kind creations...I'm looking forward to this year's event..."

Wearing a costume is encouraged. Without a costume, those attending must don coat and tie for civilians or optional equivalent dress for military. The costume specifications range from formal gowns and tuxedos to blue jeans

with cowboy boots to costumes such as clown suits, animal getups or fairy princess styles.

Eleanor Harris notes, "Last year's masquerade ball was so much fun. The room was filled with people dressed up in all kinds of costumes from a witch to a bumble bee to the phantom of the opera. Everyone was relaxed and conversation filled the ballroom throughout the night. The food was delicious and the dance floor was crowded with costumed party-goers just about the entire evening. This event was so enjoyable and I believe that everyone there will attend again this year."

But masks are the main "must wear."

A variety of simple to elaborate masks are sold for \$5 and \$10 at the door of the event. But you can bring your own to the event which is open to everyone with valid access to the installation.

Onsite child care is provided by the chapel youth organization. Call Amy at 836-3679 by March 4 for the child care by donation that includes pizza and cookies for children.

The king and queen will be nominated by making a donation, limited at \$10 for each, that counts towards your choice of "royalty." Whether you are nominated or not, you can have your photograph taken in your finery by Markus Maier who will sell prints.

"Having a professional photographer available to take individual and group photos was a nice touch, especially for those of us who wore the full dress costumes," Ms. Tamez added.

Last year's ball attended by 155 incognito TEAM KIRTLANDers raised \$2,000 for the club's scholarship fund.

To order your tickets now, call Ginger at 899-2416 or George at 266-3764.

City youths explore base’s community role

BY 2ND LT ROSE RICHESON

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Albuquerque Youth Leadership Program, sponsored the the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, participated in Kirtland AFB and Sandia National Laboratories Day, Feb. 3, reaching out to the next generation of community leaders.

The Youth Leadership Program combined 46 juniors from public and private high schools in the Albuquerque area to prepare them for participation in community affairs. Throughout the six-month program, students will explore the Albuquerque community, its resources, leadership, issues and opportunities.

This year, the participants will be exposed to a variety of elements ranging from preparing for college, basic job skills, one-on-one mock interviews, resume-building and talking with professionals in their respective career choices.

The students were provided an opportunity to learn from successful TEAM KIRTLAND military members and civilians. The tour was to help them gain a better understanding of the role Kirtland AFB plays in national security and the Albuquerque community, both as a neighbor and through its economic impact.

The students’ tour consisted of visits to the Health and Wellness Center, the Air Force Research Laboratory Directed Energy Directorate and the 58th Special Operations Wing flight simulators.

The students met with Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, as well as members of Sandia National Laboratories, to gain insight on leadership and employment opportunities at Kirtland AFB.

The Youth Leadership Program gives the students the rare opportunity to see beyond Kirtland AFB’s gates and learn more about the national government’s structure. This program is aimed at providing students with a better understanding of the role TEAM KIRTLAND plays in our nation and the tough decisions we make in keeping peace in the world and defending America.



Photo by Todd Berenger

Tech. Sgt. Robert Dinsmore, 58th Special Operations Wing helicopter instructor, explains the Aero Gunner simulator to, from the left, Rio Rancho junior, Gayle Tripp, and Sandia High juniors, Kristin Coleman and Megan Glennon, all students from the Albuquerque Youth Leadership Program.

Nuclear Surety Staff Assistance Visit team picks outstanding performers

Outstanding performers in the Jan. 26-30 Air Force Materiel Command Nuclear Surety Staff Assistance Visit are:

Individuals

377TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

Tech. Sgt. Daryl Bedford
Staff Sgt. Johnathan Goshorn
Staff Sgt. Jesse Haines
Senior Airman Michael F. Hernandez
Staff Sgt. Matthew Stritar

377TH DENTAL SQUADRON

Tech. Sgt. Marcy Egbert

377TH AIR BASE WING SAFETY

Tech. Sgt. Mark Delgado

377TH MISSION SUPPORT SQUADRON

Staff Sgt. Justine Gruslin

898TH MUNITIONS SQUADRON

Senior Airman Michael Mohr
Airman 1st Class Ashley Nissen

377TH AIR BASE WING COMMAND POST

Airman 1st Class Heather Bennett
Airman 1st Class Kevin Peterson

898th Munitions Squadron Teams BACKUP AUGMENTATION FORCE

Airman 1st Class Justin R. Burroughs
Staff Sgt. Kevin B. Comer
Airman Michael D. Coyle
Airman 1st Class Robert Davis
Airman Timothy M. Gale
Airman 1st Class Allen J. Gleiss
Master Sgt. Peter L. Housh
Airman 1st Class Stephen D. King
Airman 1st Class Anna L. Kobee
Senior Airman Todd J. Kobee
Airman 1st Class Crystal J. Lindsey
Tech. Sgt. John P. Lokken
Senior Airman Jason C. Mather
Staff Sgt. Matthew Stritar
Tech. Sgt. Andres T. Ozores
Airman Jarrett J. Sainz
Airman 1st Class Shalena Tate

LIMITED GENERAL MAINTENANCE TEAM

Airman 1st Class Jason Barhorst
Airman 1st Class Jennifer R. Barnes
Senior Airman Cameron Gandy
Staff Sgt. Johnathan A. Thompson

GENERAL MAINTENANCE TEAM

Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Covey
Staff Sgt. Kerry M. Creech
Senior Airman Stephen E. Dalmida
Airman 1st Class Joseph M. Dlugos

2nd leading cause of death can be prevented

MAJ. JOHN F. LECKIE

377th Medical Operations Squadron

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Airmen. For the civilian population, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death, taking approximately 30,000 victims each year in the United States.

The tragedy is that the vast majority of suicidal people desperately want to live, but take their lives because they cannot see answers to their problems.

The Air Force has demonstrated that suicide is preventable. We, as a community, can make an immeasurable impact on potential suicide victims by making prevention a year-round priority.

One method of ensuring vigilance is to attend annual suicide prevention education, offered monthly at the base theater. This year’s education drive has already begun. Class dates and times follow.

Another way of preventing suicide is to directly address the problems that can lead to despair.

For instance, most people who kill themselves suffer from depression. Help for depression is available through physicians, social workers and other medical professionals.

Most civilian employees can access psychological help through the Employee Assistance Program while active duty members can get assistance through 377th Medical Group clinics including Family Practice and Life Skills.

Health, legal, job, financial, family and other problems can also contribute to suicidal behavior. Kirtland AFB has a variety of agencies that provide expert intervention.

Some of these agencies include the Organizational Health Center, Family Support, Chaplains, the Legal Office, Military Equal Opportunity, Area Defense Counsel, Family Advocacy and the Health and Wellness Center.

Gen. John P. Jumper, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, stated that the “Air Force is a family” and that we can contribute to helping save lives by creating “an atmosphere where help is offered and encouraged.”

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, asks each of us to “support prevention and intervention efforts.”

We can do this by knowing about and using helping agencies for ourselves and by pointing others to use them if needed. Our Life Skills Support Center staff looks forward to seeing you for this mandatory training at the base theater.

All Suicide Prevention training is in the theater on:
March 3, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sept. 16, 7 a.m.
March 18, 7 a.m. Sept. 29, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

April 9, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Oct. 13, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
May 26, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Oct. 21, 7 a.m.

June 9, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Nov. 3, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
June 23, 7 a.m. Nov. 23, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

July 13, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
Aug. 11, 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Dec. 8, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
Dec. 16, 7 a.m.
Dec. 22, 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

Base offers ‘Hearts Apart’ for separated families

BY JANE GATES AND TERESA REINHARD
Family Support Center

“Hearts Apart” is a support and information network for families of military and Air Force civilians who are on temporary duty for more than 15 days or on a short or isolated tour.

Our mission is to ensure that the deployed member will have peace of mind and be able to focus on the mission, knowing that their family has information, support and services. We also provide services to the parents of single deploying members.

We brief military personnel and families before leaving on deployments and short tour assignments. Pre-deployment briefings are at the Family Support Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. or 2 p.m., or on Thursday, 5 p.m., or at your convenience.

We provide support for families who have a member, deployed, on remote or on isolated tours

and provide them many services including: Video Link-Up; Give Parents a Break; Car Care Because we Care; and free phone calls to the deployed member.

We also provide support for deployed members and their families by addressing readjustment questions and providing post deployment assessment.

The “Hearts Apart” Support Group meets the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Consolidated Support Building 20245. We provide lunch, a support group meeting for the adults, a playgroup for the toddlers, and arts and crafts for the children.

The “Hearts Apart” Family Arcade Night meets the fourth Friday of the month at 5 p.m. in the Consolidated Support Building 20245. We host video games, movies and board games.

The Family Support Center also hosts a special monthly outing for Hearts Apart members such as visits to the zoo, ice-skating and bowling.

Call 846-0741 to sign up for “Hearts Apart.”